

Sir Ellis Kadoorie Secondary School (2016-2017)

1D (2) Fung Lai Jan Mei Maratas

## Company

Poppy Gail is a transferee from the UK to Hong Kong and has been studying in the latter for 5 years. She and her parents stay in an averagely-sized apartment in a government-provided house with the basic necessities and appliances. Her father works as a chef in a seafood restaurant and her mom is a waitress at another. She often is alone at home because of her parents' busy schedules but it doesn't bother her. She enjoys the freedom other fellow teenagers don't possess.

Poppy has a few friends, but she has her eyes set on only one friend of hers - Greta. Greta is what one would call, closed off. While she is open enough, Greta has her many limits and trusts only a few people, one of them being Poppy. They live near each other so it was natural and convenient for them to be friends.

Poppy was taking her usual midnight walk under the night sky when she saw Greta curling up on a bench, seemingly taking a rest. The former found this strange, as she never saw her doing this before. She approached the other and lightly tapped on her covered shoulder.

She softly whispered, "Greta? Are you alright?" She flinched when she moved, and the mentioned lifted her head up high enough to see a glimpse of her friend's face. She repositioned herself and answered, "I'm... honestly not fine. Um... it's late. Shouldn't we get inside?" She signaled to Poppy a little café that opens 24-7. A small smile flashed on her face. Poppy realized that it wasn't genuine, like her other past ones. "No need. I am just taking a stroll at this time every now and then. How about you? What's up?" she chimed worriedly. The tired girl sighed and moved a little again, just enough to be able to cuddle up with the former.

"I can trust you. Right?" she asked cautiously. Poppy knew that this was important, and gave her the most sincere smile she could offer. "Of course, you can! Don't worry; I'll seal

my lips for you.” And she pretended to lock her mouth and throw away the key. Greta giggled and sighed, “Alright...”

She poured her heart out, and Poppy listened attentively to every word that came out through her mouth. Greta didn't tell everything though; only the stuff that mattered right now but Poppy respected it. Greta was heavy-hearted. She felt too guilty, like her pain didn't seem valid. But Poppy just listened and gave comfort. After the outburst, she calmed down, and both parties shared a hearty giggle.

“Though this isn't the first time we've done this, thank you anyway, for listening. I really appreciate it.” Greta thanked her soul mate.

“No problem. Just remember please, you aren't alone. I may not be able help you much but I'll give you the space and time you need. Don't feel too burdened if you want to talk with me. Got it?”

The air was still, and they just stared into each other's eyes, waiting for a signal of confirmation.

“Alright.”

Both girls took a break under the pitch black yet calming and refreshing night sky with each other's warm company.

